Modernisation of IISCO, Burnpur

369. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the modernisation programme of IISCO, Burnpur has been finalised;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of regular and contract workers are likely to be rendered surplus;

(c) if so, whether there is a proposal for redeployment of surplus staff; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Government have approved in principle the modernisation of Burnpur works of IISCO. The preliminary and preparatory works have already commenced. The investment decision wil be taken once estimates become available on submission of Engineering Services Study already commissioned.

(b) to (d) With the operation of modernised plant and phasing out of a number of uneconomical units of Burnpur works, some workers will become available for redeployment. A redeployment plan has been prepared involving training of workmen for modernised plant in the latest technology. The redeployment plan is in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and agreement arrieved at between the Management of IISCO, Burnpur and representative trade unions of IISCO, Burnpur dated 12-7-89.

Production of aluminium

370. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of aluminium has increased in the country;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to contain the price hike of aluminium products in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From the year 1987-88 onwards the production of aluminium in the country is as under:

(Figures in tonnes)

Year	Production
1987-88 . .	2,78,000
1988-89 . .	3,57,000
1989-90 (estimated) . .	4,35,000

(c) with the progressive increase in production of aluminium mainly because of commissioning of the production facilities of the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the country is expected to be surplus in aluminium during the next few years. Government, therefore, decided to decontrol price and distribution of aluminium since 1-3-1989. With adequate availability of metal to meet the demand prices will be maintained at a reasonable level.

Import of edible oil

371. SHRI GOPALA RAO, RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported by Government during the